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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
STRADDLING FISH STOCKS AND
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS
New York, 12-30 July 1993

LETTER DATED 25 MAY 1993 FROM THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON FISHERIES ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE

In accordance with the understanding reached at the organizational session in April 1993, please find attached a list of issues for discussion at the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which I submit as an official document of the Russian delegation relating to the organization of the forthcoming session in July 1993.

I should also like to draw your attention to the suggestion I made in my statement in New York in April 1993, namely, that the working groups should be set up on the following issues:

1. Standards for the conservation of straddling stocks and on the conservation and optimum utilization of highly migratory stocks;

2. Ways of improving cooperation so as to ensure the implementation of measures for the conservation of straddling stocks and the conservation and optimum utilization of highly migratory stocks in the high seas;

3. The preparation of final documents, which should be legally consistent with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

At the same time, the Russian delegation is prepared to give serious consideration to proposals by other delegations on this issue and is open to the adoption of balanced decisions.

(Signed) V. K. ZILANOV
Deputy Chairman
Committee of the Russian
Federation on Fisheries

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Annex

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

List of issues

(Submitted by the delegation of the Russian Federation)

1. The identification and study of existing problems related to the conservation of straddling fish stocks in areas of the high seas adjacent to the 200-mile economic zones, and the identification and study of existing problems related to the conservation and optimum utilization of highly migratory stocks in open areas of the world's oceans.

2. International minimum standards for the conservation, optimum utilization and monitoring of the condition of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, as well as for monitoring the fishing of these stocks on the high seas.

3. The identification of specific aspects of the rights and obligations of coastal States and States engaged in the high seas fishing of straddling stocks and highly migratory stocks, pursuant to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

4. The liability of States which abuse their rights with regard to the fishing of straddling stocks and highly migratory stocks in open areas of the world's oceans.

5. The identification and study of the existing problem relating to the harmonization of measures to conserve straddling fish stocks in open areas of the world's oceans adjacent to the 200-mile zones, between coastal States and States engaged in fishing operations in the adjacent areas.

5.1 The definition of straddling stocks of various species, on the basis of their specific biological features, as well as the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

5.2 The definition of the area adjacent to the 200-mile economic zones in which straddling stocks of various species may be fished.

5.3 Statistical information on the fishing of straddling stocks in the various adjacent areas of the world's oceans over the previous 15 years (giving gross annual catches, including those in the economic zones and in the adjacent areas, the established quotas and the basis for their selection).

5.4 Determination of the rights and obligations of coastal States and States engaged in the fishing of straddling stocks in the adjacent area of the high seas, in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the existing practice for their application and implementation.

5.5 The principles, methods and practice followed by interregional and regional international organizations for the conservation of straddling fish stocks of the adjacent areas of the high seas.

5.6 The verification and monitoring of fishing operations, measures to enforce the regulations on the fishing of straddling stocks in the adjacent areas, and possible ways of improving those procedures.

5.7 Specific aspects of the conservation of straddling stocks in the enclosed and semi-enclosed inland seas.

6. The identification and study of existing problems related to the conservation and optimum utilization of highly migratory stocks in the high seas.

6.1 The existing practice of inter-State cooperation within international organizations for the conservation and optimum utilization of highly migratory stocks, and possible improvements to that cooperation.

6.2 The full range of special needs of the developing countries and arrangements for meeting those needs where the high seas fishing of highly migratory stocks is concerned.

6.3 The verification and monitoring of fishing operations, measures to enforce the regulations on the high seas fishing of highly migratory stocks, and possible ways of improving those procedures.

6.4 The effectiveness of the application of the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, with a view to ensuring the conservation and optimum utilization of highly migratory stocks in the high seas.

7. The problem of flags of convenience in relation to the conservation of straddling stocks and the conservation and optimum utilization of highly migratory stocks in the high seas.

8. The enforcement of the regulations for the conservation of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

9. Aspects of the settlement of disputes relating to the conservation of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks in the high seas.

10. The preparation of the proposed final documents of the Conference.

10.1 A declaration of principles for the conservation of migratory stocks in high seas areas adjacent to the 200-mile economic zones.

10.2 A declaration of principles for the conservation of straddling stocks in enclosed and semi-enclosed seas.

10.3 A declaration of principles for the conservation and optimum utilization of highly migratory stocks in the high seas.

10.4 A declaration on the problem of flags of convenience.

10.5 A programme of practical activities for the conservation of straddling stocks in high seas areas adjacent to the 200-mile zones.

10.6 A programme of practical activities for the conservation and optimum utilization of highly migratory stocks in the high seas.

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